Technology in Rural Transportation

A recent study documented more than eighty proven, cost-effective, "low-tech" solutions to rural transportation needs, most developed or implemented by local transportation professionals. One of these solutions is outlined below:

Learn all about the simple solutions on the Internet at http://inform.enterprise.prog.org

The simple solutions report is available from Hau To at (503) 892-2533, or email: to@crc-corp.com

Vehicle Detection Units for Parking Meters

Overall goal:	To discourage citizens from "feeding" meters by preventing cars from parking at a meter for more than two hours.
Technical approach:	Parking meters are equipped with Vehicle Detection Units (VDU). VDUs can detect whether or not a car is in the parking space. The VDU can also save numerous types of data such as: number of parked cars, grace period between cars, number of cars that did not pay, or amount of time the parking space was empty. A remote controlled hand held computer takes three to five seconds to retrieve the data from the meter. The data is then downloaded into a personal computer, which is used to process the information about the meters. Reports are given daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annually on the meter's activity. The meters can then be customized to fit the needs of the locality. In Doyles Town, the task is to limit cars to parking at a meter to two hours. Programming the meters to only accept money for two hours per parked car enforces this limit.
Current status:	150 DVU meters have been installed and parking data is being evaluated.
Location / geographic scope:	The prototype system is being tested in the borough of Doyles Town, Pennsylvania.
Agencies involved:	Borough of Doyles Town, Intelligent Devices Department.
Cost information:	The cost is approximately $150 per basic parking meter, and an additional $150 for the DVU. The hand held computer is around $2,500. Manager

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

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	data services performed by Intelligent Devices will be $1 per meter per service.
Key contacts:	Vince Yost, Intelligent Devices. (610) 584-8830
Have goals been achieved?	The devices have been successful in ensuring that patrons do not park at meters over the maximum two hour limit.
Solution timeline:	All of the city’s meters have been outfitted with the device.

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